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to our historical literature and may be read by all with interest and profit, especially by the student and busy citizen for whom it was published.

GEORGE WINFIELD SCOTT.

*Philadelphia.*

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*Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York, 1777-1795-1801-1804.* Vols. I, II, III. With an Introduction by HUGH HASTINGS, State Historian. Published by the State of New York. Wynkoop-Hallenbeck-Crawford Co., State Printers, New York and Albany, 1899-1900.

Students of American history have welcomed this series as a convenient repository of information upon the subject of the American Revolution. The value of the material is not questioned. Only the method and manner of its presentation need examination.

The first volume contains a lingering introduction, 189 pages in length. This preface is a curious medley of biography, bibliography, eulogy, controversy and history. The latter is a reckless patchwork of English, American and New York history, in which the name of Clinton appears at very rare intervals, presumably as a bond for all this heterogeneous material. Stress is placed upon unexpected things and in uncalled-for places. The intrusion of the school-book rhetoric about "the embattled farmers," "the shot heard round the world," and "Cæsar had his Brutus," makes us doubt the editor's power of inhibition and suggests a mania for rhetorical effect. The introduction does no harm, perhaps, but the essential part of it might have been condensed into twenty pages.

The history of the manuscripts is contained in the first paragraphs of the introduction. George Clinton was for forty-five years an aggressive public character. His correspondence was consequently large. He was in communication with all the prominent men of the American Revolution. In a later period he had an intimate friendship with all the pronounced federalists, though his activity was directed against the adoption of the federal constitution.

For these reasons the correspondence which has been preserved is of a most important character. The collection was purchased in 1853 by the legislature of New York. Twenty-five hundred dollars was paid for the twenty-three volumes of the Clinton papers, few of which were originals. Many were drafts or copies made by himself or his secretary. Later the collection was increased by a number of additional volumes. These were all calendared and arranged for publication by George W. Clinton, who made a report upon them in 1882. Copious extracts from this report are made in the introduction to this published series. The

vicissitudes of the pre-revolutionary records of New York are also recounted at length.

In the preface to the second volume the editor tells us that the scope of the work has been enlarged, and a departure made from the original plan. He states that many important letters and documents alluded to by Governor Clinton were not in the New York manuscript collection. Other records were therefore searched for material to make a consecutive story of the revolutionary war, as far as it related to New York State. The editor also confesses that liberties were taken with the manuscript collection such as were not taken in the preparation of the first volume. The manuscript collection was arranged according to date, and thus a letter and its answer were often separated. In the printed collection the letter and answer have been brought together in cases where the matter is of more than ordinary importance. Such cases have been still further elucidated by footnotes. We are assured that special efforts have been made to compare such of the manuscript documents as are merely "copies" with the originals from which they were copied.

In addition to the text, there has been introduced a rather capricious selection of illustrations. Pictures of Clinton, Schuyler, Hamilton, Morris, Burgoyne, Gates, Lafayette, Jay, Steuben, Count de Grasse and Count d'Estaing are interspersed with maps of the Battle of Brooklyn, White Plains, Forts Clinton and Montgomery, the Hudson River in the Highlands and several maps illustrating Burgoyne's position at various stages of his campaign. There is also a useful calendar for the years 1775-78.

Any attempt to describe the material to be found in the three volumes is useless, because of the variety of subjects touched upon. The nature of the materials in the first two volumes is, however, largely military. The executive of the state was constantly applied to by various petty and some major officials for information and decisions to determine their action. To him came all the petitions for protection, for relief and exemption from laws which did not discriminate. In the third volume, civil rather than military documents preponderate. The last papers printed are dated in September of 1778.

The volumes are not indexed. We are not informed, but may suppose, that the index is to be published when the series is complete. It is to be regretted that the editor has chosen this plan, which was adopted with such grievous results by the editor of the "North Carolina Records." Instead of an index, we are given what the editor describes as a "detailed table of contents." This is, in fact, a list of the descriptive headings by which the editor has intended to indicate the contents of each letter or paper. In fact, however, these head-

ings rather furnish an opportunity for the exercise of a sort of editorial humor. The headings may be cheerful oases in the arid pages of historical documents, but they are rarely useful to the student.

The following headings surely indicate nothing for the purposes of research: "*A flash of private business.*" What business? "*A dash of civil affairs.*" What civil affairs? We must simply read to find out, just as we should have done if there had been no heading. Then why should we have head-lines which simply try to catch the eye, but inform no one? "*With a rinkel'd cockt'd knos.*"—"Lieut. Connelly's description of Mr. Cantine and what led to and what followed it." With a lavish use of slang the editor does, at times indicate the contents, for example: "*Rounding up dispersed and disbanded militia.*" "*General Heath shy on news.*" "*Col. Hathorn nabs four Tories.*" "*Everything serene at West Point.*" When the editor describes letters in the bilious language of the yellow journal the demoralizing effect is complete. "*The General discredits the figures—and parenthetically disposes of Washington's great victory of Trenton in 43 words.*" "*Robert Erskine's distress—His stock of pigs diminishing,*" etc.

As a collection of historical material, the completed publication will be a most valuable contribution to American and New York history. In addition to these three volumes the first volume of the papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York, 1807-17, was issued in 1898, and in the course of time we are promised the papers of Sir William Johnson.

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*A History of Political Parties in the United States.* By JAMES H. HOPKINS. Pp. 577. Price, \$2.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1900.

As indicated in its sub-title, this book purports to be an account of political parties in the United States since the foundation of the government, together with a consideration of the conditions attending their formation and development. In the four appendices are given reprints of the several party platforms, and the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798, as well as statistics of the popular vote in the various states at the four presidential elections, 1884-96.

Over half the book is devoted to these appendices, giving material which can be found elsewhere, but which may properly be placed at the service of those who read a study of the development of parties. The first national party platform—that of the National Republicans in 1832—does not appear. Its absence is due to the same indifference